

Digital Media Developers Group

October 7, 2004 Meeting Notes

Old Business

ITAB report—Kay Dinolfo

Nothing much to report this month.

e-gov scorecard—Hannah Mao

The reports are not yet available on-line.

New Business

State Web Site Redesign:

Christy Clark introduced the new design for the state home page and explained the changes made in the new design. All the links from the current site are included, and some additional features, like a photographs section, have been added. Comments at the meeting included: better labeling of the homeland security threat level and low contrast of some text.

DMD members are invited to look at the page and code in more detail and send comments to Christy. Links are available to DMD members at <http://oa.mo.gov/dmd/sandbox>.

DMD sandbox

There is a new section on the DMD site to let DMD members take a look and comment on DMD projects and other works in development. The site is only available to state employees from their work stations. Current contents of the sandbox are proposed changes to web standards and guidelines and the state home page redesign.

The sandbox is located at <http://oa.mo.gov/dmd/sandbox>.

Updating mo.gov links

Sandy Oidtman made a plea for all DMD members to check their links on their sites. A recent survey found over thousands broken links on state sites, and that makes Missouri's ranking in state government IT surveys drop.

She suggested using the W3C's Link Checker at <http://validator.w3.org/checklink> to review your links.

Web security

Glenn Nielsen from MOREnet gave a [presentation on web security](#). The Data Center is monitoring the servers closely to look for potential attacks, and we can help

prevent these by limiting opportunities for hacking.

Scripts should be examined to do the following things:

- Validate all input
- Escape HTML characters that can be used to hack, like “<”, “>”, and “&”.
- Filter out <script>, <object> and <embed> tags that could be inserted in a form field.
- Do not put variable names in prepared SQL statements. Insert them when the SQL is executed.
- Use JavaScript carefully to make sure your page is not open to cross-site scripting attacks.
- Avoid using sensitive data like names or SSNs in SQL statements.

While the presentation centered mostly on CGI and JSP on the state server, the same issues are critical for agencies using Windows servers.

More MOREnet security recommendations can be found at <http://www.more.net/security/materials/>.

Services report

Steve Owens reported that there were some disruptions to Services last month due to hardware failure and a roll-over failure. SDC has taken steps to fix these.

.gov domain requirements

Kay Dinolfo talked about new guidelines from the GSA for all .gov domains (http://www.dotgov.gov/program_guidelines.aspx). Three of the guidelines specifically affect DMD members.

1. No advertising is allowed on .gov domains
2. No campaign information is allowed
3. A splash message should be displayed when linking to a non-.gov site, letting the user know they are leaving .gov

The third item is somewhat controversial, especially since the language specifically says “should” while the other two items are more explicit. OIT is seeking interpretation and clarification on this.

Agency Projects/Open Discussion:

Lainie Strange reported that ITAB has started a new Enterprise Architecture Interface domain to interface issues. Several web items are specifically mentioned, including branding and accessibility.